

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 063076

47

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ WHSULLIVAN/ EA/ VN: PCOLLINS: AOA

4/5/73 EXT 20272

APPROVED BY P- AMB. PORTER

EA/ VN: L. B. ASKEW

S/ S - MR. BARNES

----- 119661

O R 051817 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 063076

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PINT PINS VS

SUBJECT: TONLE CHAM

REF: A. SAIGON 5540, B. SAIGON 5623, C. SAIGON 5014, D. SAIGON
5507, E. SAIGON 5589, F. SAIGON 5618

1. WE NOTE FROM REF A THAT INDO DEL IN APRIL 2 ICCS
MEETING READ LETTER IN WHICH PRG IS CALLING FOR MEETINGS
OF OPPOSING COMMANDERS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON TEMPORARY
MEASURES TO AVERT CONFLICT AT TONLE CHAM. WE NOTE ALSO
FROM REF B THAT GVN IS REFUSING TO TAKE ON THIS PROPOSAL
BECAUSE " SUCH A CONCESSION WOULD CONSTITUTE A DANGEROUS
PRECEDENT COUNTRY- WIDE."

2. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT GVN ATTITUDE IN THIS REGARD IS
BUILDING AN INDEFENSIBLE RECORD WITH RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE CEASE- FIRE PROTOCOL WHICH RE-
QUIRES THAT " THE COMMANDERS OF THE OPPOSING ARMED FORCES
AT THOSE PLACES OF DIRECT CONTACT SHALL MEET AS SOON AS
THE CEASE- FIRE COMES INTO FORCE WITH A VIEW TO REACHING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 063076

AN AGREEMENT ON TEMPORARY MEASURES TO AVERT CONFLICT AND TO ENSURE SUPPLY AND MEDICAL CARE FOR THESE ARMED FORCES."

3. WHILE WE AGREE THAT DELIBERATE SEIGE OF TONLE CHAM BY THE COMMUNISTS IS A GROSS VIOLATION OF THE CEASE- FIRE, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT CLUMSY ACTION IN THE TPJMC AND ICCS BY GVN REPS CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 4 COULD HAVE COUNTER- PRODUCTIVE RESULTS IF THE ISSUE BECOMES WIDELY INTERNATIONALIZED.

4. YOU SHOULD SEEK IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER KHIEM, RECITE THESE VARIOUS OBSERVATIONS, AND ASK WHAT VIEWS KHIEM HAS UPON THE QUESTION OF MEETINGS OF OPPOSING COMMANDERS IN AN EFFORT TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION AT TONLE CHAM. IN THIS REGARD WE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE REPORTED RVN POSITION QUOTED REF B THAT SUCH MEETINGS WOULD CONSTITUTE " A CONCESSION" IN VIEW OF THE CLEAR PROVISION FOR THEM IN ARTICLE 4 OF THE PROTOCOL. WE WOULD ASSUME THAT OFFICERS FROM HIGHER HEADQUARTERS COULD BE PRESENT FROM BOTH SIDES. THIS WOULD, IN EFFECT, BE VARIANT ON GENERAL THUAN' S PROPOSAL IN WHICH COLONELS WOULD MEET, WITH LOCAL COMMANDERS " STANDING BEHIND THEM." INSTEAD, COMMANDERS WOULD MEET, WITH COLONELS " STANDING BEHIND THEM." (REF F).

5. IN YOUR MEETING WITH KHIEM YOU SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE PRECISELY THE STATE OF RVNAF MILITARY PLANNING FOR RELIEF EXPEDITION INTENDED TO BE LAUNCHED TOWARD TONLE CHAM AND YOU SHOULD PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH ANY EVALUATION YOU AND THE DAO MAY HAVE CONCERNING ITS POTENTIAL CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IF IT IS EVENTUALLY TO BE LAUNCHED. ROGERS

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE063076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PCOLLINS: AOA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730434/aaaahqxh.tel
Line Count: 100
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A.SAIGON 5540, B.SAIGON 5623, C.SAIGON 5014, D.SAIGON, 5507, E.SAIGON 5589
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971201
Subject: TONLE CHAM
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, VS, PINT
To: JEC PARIS
OTTAWA
SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005